been paying in time, regularly. Naturally, therefore, we have to take a different type of action. But they have violated an important provision of the deed. They have constructed some premises for commercial purposes, which was against the provisions of the deed. In this regard, we are consulting the Law Department for taking appropriate action and I assure the House that we will take it very soon.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Sir, is it a fact that the standing counsels have colluded with the parties and that is why they have been unduly delayed in the court of law, in regard to recovery? If so, what steps have been taken to ensure that the standing counsels do not collude with the parties?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: This is an informaton to us. We will enquire into it.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, the dues mentioned against these two hotels are quite staggering. But I would like to put the matter in perspective. I would like to know whether these are the only two hotels which have dues pending, to the N.D.M.C., and the Government, or, whether there are also Government hotels and Tatas.... (*Interruptions*) Mr. Charanjit Singh is a Harvard man. Therefore, I have soft corner for him. There is no doubt about it. But my question is whether only these two hotels are being singled out for these kinds of dues and whether there are also other hotels, apart from these two hotels, which have dues pending against their names.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Regarding this, I have no information. I will place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI T. R. BALU: Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that. . .

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: He is your *guru*.

SHRI T. R. BALU: Of course, he is my *guru*. There is no doubt about it Hundred times I can repeat it. (*Interruptions*) I can repeat it thousand times. Sir, the hon. Minister has just now replied that the Meridien Hotel has grossly violated the rules and regulations of the N.D.M.C., and of the Government and that they have constructed a commercial complex which is about 40 per cent of the area. I would like to know which Government had allowed them to bypass the rules and regulations, whether it is the National Front Govenrment or the Congress(I) Government. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Subramanian Swamy, you have had your supplementary. How are you coming into the picture now?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, he said that he would give the answer to my question later on. But in the other House, Mr. Advani has already been given the answer and I have it with me. When he has given the answer in the Lok Sabha, why is he not prepared to give the same in the Rajya Sabha?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, this matter was gone into by the Public Accounts Committee and their report is also available to us. Therefore, we all know the truth.

Import of contaminated wheat

*162. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH :
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:†

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had purchased damaged wheat worth over Rs. 900 crores from FF Louis Dreyus Corporation of U.S.A. an ally of Bofors;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which had appeared in the Free Press Journal, dated the 20th and 21st February, 1990 to this effect and also that the same wheat

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sukomal Sen.

was dumped in the then opposition-ruled Southern States;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that this wheat was declared contaminated by an agency of the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) The news reports appearing in the Free Press Journal dated 20th and 21st February, 1990 have come to the notice of Government.

India imported 2.011 million tonnes of US wheat in 1988-89 at a cost of US $ 323.932 millions comprising FOB cost of US $ 243.362 million and ocean freight of US $ 80.570 millions. Besides, 0.684 million tonnes of rice was imported during this period from Thailand at a FOB cost of US $ 166.76 million.

The entire consignment of wheat was fit for human consumption according to rules under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) which lays norms for determining fitness of foodstuff for human consumption in India.

The Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarrantine and Storage, which is essentially responsible for ensuring that grains imported are free from disease which may propagate in the country, found on inspection that there was very minute incidence of ergot ranging from 0.0001 per cent to 0.006 per cent and dwarf bunt ranging from 0.0002 per cent to 0.006 per cent in 1.028 million tonnes of wheat, as against the PFA limit of 0.05 per cent of ergot and 5 per cent for damaged grains, which include fungus (bunt) affected grains as well. According to the Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of Imports into India) Order issued by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1984, consignment of wheat to be imported shall be free from Dwarf Bunt and Ergot. Since the imported wheat was required for consumption and not for seed purposes, the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarrantine and Storage under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation on representation from the Department of Food permitted the use of this slightly infested wheat with proper safeguards only to ensure that the ergot or dwarf bunt affected wheat in no circumstance enters wheat growing areas of the country, to obviate any possibility of its being used as seeds. Accordingly, the use of dwarf bunt affected wheat was permitted under the following main conditions :—

(i) No wheat infested by Dwarf Bunt should be allowed to be moved to wheat growing States and its distribution through the PDS would be confined to Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and city districts of Bombay and Calcutta.

(ii) If any wheat affected by Dwarf Bunt is already at any of the ports located outside Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa and city districts of Bombay and Calcutta, the stocks should be moved in sealed wagons to centres in these States; precautions, prescribed by the Plant Protection Adviser (PPA) in the movement of wheat should be observed by FCI.

For disposal of ergot affected wheat the following conditions were stipulated :—

(i) All such wheat would be discharged at any port in the four Southern States (Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh), Orissa, Bombay coglomeration/Industrial Suburbs, Calcutta and Goa.

(ii) The Ergot infected wheat should be milled under supervision at the centres mentioned in (i) above and then allowed to be distributed. The refuse containing the chaff etc. should be burnt, as laid down by the PPA.

Imported wheat stocks containing traces of ergot and/or dwarf bunt have been disposed of accordingly.

. On the recommendation of a technical committee, a new notification in lieu of 1984 order has been issued by Department of Agriculture in December, 1989 in which the tolerance limit of 0.05 per cent for ergot and 0.005 per cent for dwarf bunt in the imported wheat for human consumption has been prescribed.

After above amendment of the Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 1984 in December, 1989, it has now been decided to issue ergot affected white wheat also being within the above prescribed limits, for PDS. Only white imported variety is being issued under PDS as the red one is not generally liked by people.

The imported wheat conformed to the PFA Rules and the transaction did not at any stage reveal anything warranting probe.

A quantity of 20.00 lakh tonnes of wheat was contracted from 12 US suppliers under US Export Enhancement Programme (EEP). Out of this quantity, contracts for a quantity of 5.5 lakh tonnes were signed with Louis Dreyfus Corporation, as per list of suppliers with quantities to be purchased from them indicated by US Department of Agriculture under US (EEP) purchase procedure. The buyers cannot negotiate with suppliers directly under the U.S. EEP procedures. The names of suppliers and the quantities to be supplied by each were determined by US Department of Agriculture. The Supply Wing, Embassy of India, Washington D.C. or Department of Food had no say in the matter. The Department of Food has no information whether LOUIS DREYFUS CORPORATION is an ally of BOFORS.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have gone through the statement made by the hon. Minister. But I am a little surprised. I do not know whether the hon. Minister has himself gone into the deal or he has simply relied on the note which was put up to him by the officials. Sir, it was a deal of... (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are on the panel of Vice-Chairmen. At least you should behave. (*Interruptions*). You put the supplementary. Do not be disturbed by these people even if they happen to be on the panel of Vice-Chairmen.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, it was a deal of Rs. 900 crores for import of 3 million tonnes of wheat and rice, mostly rice. One firm with which the Government entered into the deal was the FF Louis Dreyfus Corporation, a U.S. firm, an ally of Bofors and closely related to L.M. Thappar of India. Another firm is M/s. Cargill Inc. of U.S.A. They have given post-box address in USA, no other address. The Government entered into agreement with these two companies for importing wheat and rice which landed at the Kandla port in Gujarat and then what happened? This note itself says that the Government arranged to inspect the sample of the wheat and they found that there were minute incidence of ergot and dwarf bunt. Kindly note the wording which says that it is affected by 'minute incidence of ergot and dwarf bunt'. Now they say, if it is sent to wheat growing area, the wheat produced will damage the country's grain generation and that it was not fit for consumption. So, they decided to send the wheat to Southern India and Calcutta and Bombay where wheat is not grown. What does the Plant Protection and Quarrantine and Storage Directorate say? In their letter dated 4th October, 1988 they clearly declared and I quote:

> "not to be issued for public utilisation or military"

They clearly said that it was not for public utilization or military use. Even then they sent it to South India, Calcutta and Bombay. How would the Food Department ask the Agriculture Ministry to send it for public utilisation and how could the Agriculture Ministry permit them to send it to Southern India, Calcutta and Bombay for public consumption? So, my question is whether the Agriculture Ministry which is entrusted with the task of sample testing of wheat or rice that is imported from abroad, certified that it was fit for human consumption or the then Food Department brought pressures on

the Agriculture Ministry. Sir, it is a shady deal. Some bureaucrats in the Government have brought pressure on the Agriculture Ministry to permit them to use it for human consumption. Sir, when the Agriculture Ministry has clearly said that it is not fit for human consumption how could the Food and Supply Department pressurise the Ministry to give them permission? I want to know this.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : It is nowhere said that it is not fit for human consumption.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA : I want to say that this deal is perfectly a good deal. There is no doubt about it. I have gone through all the papers, all the stnadards and everything else.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Why are you defending them ?

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA : I am trying to put the truth before this House and it is my duty. On account of two lean years before we imported 2 million tonnes of wheat and .68 million tonnes of rice. We had to import because the production before 2 years had been very less on account of drought, untimely rains. The production was about 150 million tonnes in 1985-86 went down to about 140 million tonnes in 1987-88 The stocks had completely depleted. So, we had to import and a very high level team was constituted, that visited European countries, EEC countries, Argentina, Canada. At some places wheat was not there. At some other places—in Canada, for instance the prices were very high and we had to import. Then ultimately, the team went to the U.S.A. In U.S.A. there is a way in which the deal has to be done. The team negotiated with the Government of U.S.A. and all specifications, contracts and agreements were entered into. The rates were settled, the freights were settled and the destinations were settled. The U.S.A. has got its own mechanism on how to procure wheat and from whom. So they had certain firms, they called for their tenders and they purchased it. The price which they pay to these farmers sometimes is very high and they give a particular type of subsidy on the rates to purchasers to purchase from other countries so that the tenders entered into can conform to prices which the Government will have to receive and the farmers might get a little more prices from the Government. There is a particular way in which transactions have to be settled and I have seen that the transactions were quite all right.

Regarding quarantine question, when this wheat arrived here at the Indian ports, the Quarantine Officer of the Agriculture Department found some traces of dwarf bunt, the fungus disease, and also that other disease. One million tonne was perfectly all right. One million tonne contained some traces. In all countries where there are severe winters when the wheat is cultivated and sometimes the ice is also there, it is usual that this disease will be there in the wheat grains. But they are within the limits. The standards at that time were slightly different in 1984. Then again the whole matter was examined in 1989 and a Committee was formed and the standards were revised. Whatever bunt was there, or the other fungus disease was there, it was within limits. But to see that this wheat is not sown in our country, the Agriculture Department and all the others said, let us send this wheat to some other parts of the country where wheat is not grown for use for eating purposes only, for human consumption or other purposes—for flour mills etc. So it was sent mostly to South Indian areas where it could be used for human consumption.

I can tell you, Sir, that it was not at all bad for human consumption. Whatever traces of these two fungus diseases were found in those grains, they were absolutely fit for human consumpion. But to protect India against people using those seeds for cultivation, we sent it to the Southern States of the country. There is no harm in it at all. It has not created any disease or any problem. Most of the wheat has been eaten. Only a little portion of that wheat remains. The white wheat we distribute through the public distribution system and the red wheat we auction to the flour mills. The remaining stock is only 3.76 lakh tonnes.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: The reply of the Minister is more confounding. He says that the wheat is fit for consumption, but is not fit for growing, not fit as seed. Then, Sir, if it is fit for human consumption, why is it not fit for being used as seed? I do not understand this.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: It is a technical thing.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: He is not the son of a farmer. How can he know these things?

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Only a farmer like you knows these things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is a farmer. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: Of all the people, the southern people were asked to consume it, for going against the Congress.

....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, the point is, when the deal was entered into, at that time the Plant Protection Adviser in the Ministry of Agriculture specified in form SS(C) that the consignment should be free from ergot, dwarft bunt and granary weevil. Then, Sir, in another clause in the same contract it was specified that the sellers should also ensure that this infection was not there in the grain while they sell it to India. These are two clear conditions in the contract—that the Government of India should ensure that it did not have any contamination and that the seller should also ensure that there was no contamination. I would like to know from the honourable Minister what were the compulsions of the then Government to buy these three million tonnes of wheat at a cost of Rs. 900 crores despite these clear perceptions. I would like to know whether the Government is now prepared to have a fresh look into the matter and set up an inquiry to see how much kickbacks were involved in that deal and also whether this wheat consumed by people in the South and in Calcutta and Bombay will have any repercussions on their health in the present generation or on future generations. I want to know whether the Government will make a medical inquiry also into it.

श्री नाथू राम मिर्धा : चेयरमैन साहब, मैंने काफी इसको समझा है और मैं इसमें पूरी जांच-पड़ताल करके ही उत्तर दे रहा हूं। इसमें फयूचर जांच की जरूरत नहीं है। अब यह क्यों मंगवाया गया—मैंने बताया कि अकाल होने से लोएस्ट मिनिमम एब पर स्टाक्स की लिमिट थी और यहां पर और स्टाक्स में नहीं होने से देश को खाने की जरूरत थी। व्हीट इसलिए मंगवाना पड़ा और जो व्हीट मंगवाया, गया वह ह्यूमन कंजम्पशन के लिए परफैक्टली ठीक था। जो उसमें अरगट के और डवार्फ बंट के ट्रेसज थे, वह कतई हैल्थ पर असर नहीं डालते और किसी भी सर्द मुल्क से अगर ऐसा गेहूं आएगा, तो वह सब जगह लोगों को खाने के लिए कोई कष्ट नहीं हुआ। इसलिए हैल्थ की दृष्टि से जो ट्रेसज डवार्फ बंट के और अरगट के थे, वह बोने के लिए ठीक नहीं थे और खाने के लिए उसमें कोई नुकसान नहीं था। इसलिए वह खाने के लिए... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री गुरुदास दासगुप्त : मंत्री जी क्या वह व्हीट खाने के लिए तैयार है ?... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री नाथू राम मिर्धा : नहीं, पर मैं साइंटिफिकली ज्यादा समझता हूं कि क्या बीमारी होती है।

श्री गुरुदास दासगुप्त : आप खाने के लिए तैयार हैं, तो बोलिए।

श्री नाथू राम मिर्धा : मैं खाने के लिए तैयार हूं।... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री गुरुदास दासगुप्त : मंत्री जी खाने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। इसलिए वह हम लोगों को खाने के लिए दे रहे हैं।... (**व्यवधान**) वह खाने के लिए तैयार नहीं है।

श्री नाथु राम मिर्धा : अब तो वह कोई तीन लाख टन बचा है, बाकी सारा खत्म हो गया है। व तीन लाख टन भी इस महीने में खत्म हो जाएगा।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : माननीय मंत्री जी क्या यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो व्हीट संभवतः 1100 करोड़ रुपये का उन्होंने बाहर से देश की आवश्यकता के लिए इम्पोर्ट किया है, उसमें क्या कोई ग्लोबल टेंडर्स इनवाइट किये गये थे ? यदि हां, तो किन-किन कंट्रीज ने उसके लिए टेंडर्स दिये थे ? मिनिमम रेट्स पर ही क्या यू०एस०ए० की जिन फर्म्स को उन्होंने दिया है, वह दिये हैं, क्या कोई कंपैरेटिव स्टेटमेंट भी बनाया था ?

मेरा पहला प्रश्न तो यही है, इसी का बतला दें ?

श्री सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी : किस दाम पर खरीदा यह भी बतला दें ?

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : मान्यवर, यह मेरे दिमाग से निकल गया था। और क्या यह सही है कि (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : यह तो अच्छे गुरू हैं।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : . . . कि जिस रेट पर भारत के किसान को गेहूं की कीमत दी जाती है, उससे दुगने से भी अधिक रेट पर गेहूं अमरीका से खरीदा गया है और यदि हां, तो किस रेट पर खरीदा गया है ?

श्री नाथु राम मिर्धा : मान्यवर, सभापति जी, यह सही नहीं है। . . . (व्यवधान)

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : आप उसका जवाब दें।

श्री नाथू राम मिर्धा : मैं सब जवाब दे रहा हूं। आप सुनिये, शांति रखें। मैंने कहा कि ग्लोबल टेंडर्स तो ऐसी चीज है कि जैसे गेहूं सब जगह अवेलेबल है और गेहूं को सब जगह बेचने के लिए तैयार हैं। ग्लोबल टेंडर्स तो वहां दिए जाते हैं कि चीजें सारी दुनियां में मौजूद हों और कम्पेरेटिव प्राइस बचाने के लिए खरीदनी पड़ें . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

एक माननीय सदस्य : आस्ट्रेलिया से खरीद सकते हैं ?

श्री नाथू राम मिर्धा : चेयरमेन साहब, मैंने पहले कहा . . . (व्यवधान) आप सुनें।

श्री गुरुदास दास गुप्त : आप कानून कुछ नहीं जानते हैं ?

श्री नाथू राम मिर्धा : गेहूं खरीदना गेहूं कहां मिलती है, यह देश को मालूम सरकार को मालूम है अफसरों को मालूम है और विभागों को मालूम है

एक माननीय सदस्य : आस्ट्रेलिया तो नहीं गए आप ?

श्री नाथू राम मिर्धा : उस समय आस्ट्रेलिया में गेहूं नहीं था। यूरोपियन देशों में गए, वहां पर गेहूं नहीं था। कनाडा गए, वहां गेहूं था, लेकिन भाव बहुत ऊंचे थे। अल्टीमेटली यू०एस०ए० के पास गेहूं था और वहां सौदा करना पड़ा।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : मान्यवर मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि टेंडर्स काल किए गए या नहीं ?

श्री नाथु राम मिर्धा : मैं कह रहा हूं कि नहीं काल किए गए। नहीं काल करने की आवश्यकता थी। हम को गेहूं जल्दी लाना था। यहां के हाई-लेवल आफिसर्स की टीम गयी। दुनियां के कई मुल्कों में गई। जहां गेहूं नहीं था वहां से हटकर अमेरिका में गई और वहां सौदा हुआ। इसमें ग्लोबल टेंडर्स काल करना हर वक्त जरूरी नहीं है। वहां जिस दाम पर खरीदा और जो जहाज का भाड़ा लगा, उस सारे के बावजूद भी जो गेहूं यहां आया वह गेहूं उस समय हिंदुस्तान में गेहूं के भाव से नीचे दाम पर आया था। (व्यवधान)

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा: टेंडर तो काल नहीं किए है . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

श्री नाथू राम मिर्धा: हिंदुस्तान में जो भी गेहूं का भाव था, आप सुनिए . . . (व्यवधान) . . . मैंने कह दिया कि टेंडर काल करें, ऐसा जरूरी नहीं है। देश में गेहूं लाना था। देश में स्टाक नहीं था। तीन मिलियन टन का स्टाक रह गया था। तीन मिलियन टन लोएस्ट होता है, इसलिए सरकार को गेहूं जल्दी खरीदना था और जहाँ से भी खरीदा जा सकता था, सब देशों की तलाशी कर ली गई। जहां मंहगा था उससे कंपेअर कर लिया, उसके बाद गेहूं खरीदा था। उस समय हिंदुस्तान के किसी भी कार्नर में गेहूं के जो भाव थे, उसका सारा खर्चा उठाकर वहां से गेहूं सस्ता आया।

श्री सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी: किस दाम पर खरीदा, पप टन कितना था, पर क्विंटल कितना था, एक्जैक्ट बताइए आप?

श्री नाथु राम मिर्धा: वह मैंने बता दिया है।

श्री सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी: नहीं बताया है।

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: मंत्री महोदय के उत्तर से यह स्पष्ट होता है समाचार पत्रों में जो कुछ छपा वह सत्य नहीं था बल्कि अगर मैंने आपके उत्तर को सही समझा तो उस समय देश को आवश्यकता थी आयात करने की। परन्तु जो प्रश्न आज आया है और जो उत्तर हमारे पास है उसको मद्दे नजर रखते हुए क्या यह सही होगा कि जो समाचार "फ्री प्रेस जर्नल" में छपा है इस गेहूं के आयात से संबंधित, तो क्या आप उनको इन तथ्यों को देखते हुए शरारतपूर्ण कहेंगे दूसरे मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि जो गेहूं दक्षिण के प्रांतों को भेजा गया, उससे यह एक गलत धारणा उत्पन्न हो रही है इस तरह के समाचारों से। अगर हूमन कंजम्शन के लिए यह गेहूं ठीक था तरन्तु बीज के रूप में प्रयोग करने के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं पाया गया तो पीसने के बाद क्या यह गेहूं दूसरे प्रांतों में नहीं भेजा जा सकता था? यह निर्णय केवल कुछ प्रांतों तक सीमित रखने का किस स्तर पर किया गया और क्या यह उचित था? (व्यवधान)

श्री नाथू राम मिर्धा: फ्लोर मिल्स पीसती हैं। इसको आक्शन करते हैं। सारे हिन्दुस्तान की फ्लोर मिल्स आती हैं, खरीदती हैं और सब जगह हिंदुस्तान में आटे के रूप में गया है . . . (व्यवधान) सभी जगह गया है। इसलिए मैं यह कह रहा था कि गेहूं सब जगह आटे के रूप में गया है, लोगों ने खाया है, आज भी लोग खा रहे हैं और उसे पसंद करते हैं। रेड वीट है, वह हम आक्शन करते हैं, फ्लोर मिल्स को पिसवाते हैं, इसलिए उस आटे को खाने में किसी को कोई तकलीफ नहीं, गेहूं खाने में कोई तकलीफ नहीं। अब आपने भाव पूछे, वह मैं बता देता हूं:

The wholesale prices of the Mexican variety of wheat in various Mandis in India were ranging from Rs. 1,730 per tonne in Punjab and Haryana to Rs. 3,400 per tonne during April 1988 and between Rs. 2,120 and Rs. 3250 per tonne in July 1988. The average landed cost of the 20 million lakh tonnes of imported wheat was Rs. 2,626.30 per tonne.

तो आप देखेंगे कि अपने यहां 3250 रुपये तक दाम थे और किराया वगैरह मिलाकर के हम 2626 रुपये में लाए, तो इसलिए इसमें भी कोई ठगवाड़ा नहीं था। उस समय हिन्दुस्तान में जरूरत थी, उसको इम्पोर्ट करना जरूरी था वरना तीन मिलियन टन का स्टाक रह गया था और देश के लिए चावल और गेहूं की खरीद करना जरूरी था और सरकार ने यह कर्तव्य समझकर काम किया। यह समाचार अखबार में मिसचिवियस तरीके से छापा गया और सरकार ऐसे समाचार रोज देखती है। (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: What is there to feel happy about?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should be happy that your Minister is being applauded. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: The hon. Minister did not specify why the Government of India had agreed to take that wheat against the conditions they themselves had stipulated in the contract. In the contract the condition was that this particular variety of wheat was not to be supplied. The defects were there in that imported wheat. So, my point is that against the conditions stipulated in the contract the wheat was allowed to be imported.

Second, it was stated by experts that it should not be consumed by military personnel. All right. But South Indians and people of other States consume it. How is it possible? He certifies as a doctor that there would be no mal-effect throughout India after consuming it. How does he know that? I don't know. Is it that the South Indians and other people who are not growing wheat can take it and the Government assumes that it can be sent to the South Indian states. How is it possible that the military people cannot take it and the South Indian people can take it? I want a straight answer from the hon. Minister. Why has the Government allowed the purchase of the wheat in the country against the conditions of the contract?

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: The wheat was of the specification, जो कंडीशन में आता था, अगेन्स्ट कंडीशन नहीं खरीदा। अब यह कहते हैं कि दक्षिण में ही क्यों भेजा। दक्षिण में इसलिए भेजा ... (**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति : पहला जवाब तो आपका यह है कि आपने जो वोट खरीदा, वह कायदे के अंदर था ?

श्री नाथू राम मिर्धा : वह स्पेसिफिकेशन के विद्इन था क्योंकि हमको यह मालूम है कि जहां सर्दी होती है और बर्फ होती है माइनर ट्रेसेज इन फंगस, और हमको ज्ञान था, बियांण्ड स्पेसिफिकेशन अगर होता तो हम नहीं लेते, पर वह विद्इन स्पेसिफिकेशन था। ... (**व्यवधान**)...

I am myselmf convinced. Otherwise I would not have said about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said that it was within the specifications. That is what he said.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: Sir, they were within the specification. कोई टैण्डर के खिलाफ नहीं लिया। I have said that very specifically. Now, I want to say again why it was sent to the South.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asked why it was not allowed to be consumed by the military personnel.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: No, anybody can consume. Even military personnel can consume it. There is no difficulty. The wheat is consumable by every human being whether it is military personnel or common man or a beggar or a rich man. He can consume.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir, he is giving his opinion.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: It is not my opinion. It is the opinion of the technical people who deal with quarantine matters.

अमृत बाजार पत्रिका समूह द्वारा नियोजक द्वारा भविष्य निधि के दिए जाने वाले अंशदान का जमा न किया जाना

*163. **श्री मती वीणा वर्मा :**†
श्री कपिल वर्मा :

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि कलकत्ता स्थित अमृत बाजार पत्रिका समाचार पत्र समूह के प्रबन्ध मंडल ने कर्मचारियों द्वारा भविष्य निधि और ई०एस०आई० में किये गए अंशदान को अभी तक जमा नहीं करवाया है ;

(ख) यदि हां; तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और उस धन राशि को वसूलने के

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा द्वारा पूछा गया।